

Administrator's Update for 3/9/11

By Ray Sandrock, County Administrator

Recently we hosted a joint meeting with the Charlotte County Airport Authority. Land use and economic development was discussed and we will be looking at ways to increase marketing of the county as a destination to travelers as they spend time in the airport during their travel.

Dogs in parks

Our Charlotte County community services department will be holding two public meetings to determine the impact of allowing dog walks in seven county parks. Per Section 1-4-36b of the Charlotte County Code of Ordinances, "dogs shall be permitted in or on any public park but only when such public area is specifically designated and posted for such use." The parks being considered are: Bayshore Live Oak Park, Kiwanis Park, Cape Haze Pioneer Trail, Port Charlotte Beach Park (does not include the beach), North Charlotte Regional Park, Harbour Heights Park and Ann Dever Memorial Regional Park (formerly Oyster Creek Regional Park). Dogs will be required to be leashed at all times and owners or walkers must pick up the dogs' waste. The public meetings will be on Tuesday, March 22, 2011 at 6 p.m. at the Harold Avenue Recreation Center, 23400 Harold Avenue, Port Charlotte and on Wednesday, March 23, 2011 at 6 p.m. at the Tringali Recreation Center, 3460 N. Access Road, Englewood

FARE

The Florida Alliance for Renewable Energy (FARE) recently brought its 2011 Renewable Energy Tour to FGCU and our economic development office participated in a Town Hall panel event. The panel event included local and state legislators, local business leaders and area economic development offices as well as renewable energy and clean tech industry experts to discuss the advancement of renewable energy in Florida. The tour will continue through Florida until March, when the legislative session begins.

A safer ride

Our transit division has installed security cameras in all of its bus fleet except for the older buses which will be put on the auction line in the near future. All new buses ordered have security cameras installed prior to delivery. To schedule a Dial-a-Ride trip, call 941.575.4000, option 1. For Sunshine Ride, select option 2.

Senior housing

Our housing division staff received reports from Carlisle Development for the Charlotte Crossings affordable apartment complex for seniors. Development is expected to be complete in May, 2011. A meeting was held with the Carlisle marketing team regarding the application process for tenants. Applications are now being accepted for occupancy by the end of the summer. This project is funded in part with the last of the Hurricane Housing Recovery grant funds.

Stop by

Our community services department and the Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau have partnered to host an information booth at the Charlotte Sports Park during Tampa Bay Rays' spring training games. Charlotte County recreational opportunities and vacation information is being distributed along with a list of area businesses offering specials or discounts when a spring training ticket stub is redeemed. Visitors to the booth can also register to win a vacation for four compliments of Hotels of Port Charlotte, Rotonda Golf and Country Club, King Fisher Fleet, and JD's Bistro and Grille.

Summer camp

Registration began at the end of February for community service's "Around the World in 50 Days" traditional summer camp. The traditional summer camp program includes one weekly field trip in addition

to weekly visits to the county pools. Weekly swim lessons for no additional fee are available for children registered for the full session. Traditional camps will be held at the Harold Avenue Recreation Center in Port Charlotte and the South County Regional Park in Punta Gorda. Specialty camps are also offered at locations throughout the county and registration begins March 21. These camps include a general aquatics program, springboard diving camp; junior lifeguard program, and cheerleading, gymnastics and tumbling. Visit the community services web page at www.CharlotteCountyFL.com or call 941.505.8686 for more information